

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed December 11, 2003. Claims 22-34 were previously withdrawn from consideration, and Claims 1-15, 17-21 and 35-49 were rejected by the Examiner. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-15, 17-21 and 35-49.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C § 103:

Claims 1-13, 15, 18-21, 35-38, 40, 43 and 46-48

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-13, 15, 18-21, 35-38, 40, 43 and 46-48 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris et al. in view of Byford and Knoblock. Applicant traverses this rejection. Applicant respectfully submits that Harris et al. Byford, and Knoblock, even when combined, fail to disclose, teach, or suggest every element of the invention as defined by Claims 1-13, 15, 18-21, 35-38, 40, 43 and 46-48. For example, Harris et al. Byford, and Knoblock fail to disclose at least one aspect of Claim 1, namely:

"an installations/removals module operable to record installation/removal information regarding the installation and removal of equipment within an area serviced by one of the plurality of service centers using the equipment database through an interface"
(emphasis added).

Similarly, Harris et al. Byford, and Knoblock fail to disclose at least one aspect of amended Claim 13, namely the following aspects:

"updating the equipment information database with installation information to indicate that the equipment has been installed and further to indicate the area where the equipment was installed and the one of the plurality of service centers associated with the area" (emphasis added)

and

"updating the equipment information database that the equipment has been removed and updating a removal information related to reasons for the removal" (emphasis added)

Additionally, assuming arguendo that Harris et al. Byford, and Knoblock disclosed each and every element of the invention as defined by Claims 1-13, 15, 18-21, 35-38, 40, 43 and 46-48, Applicant questions the existence, expressly or implicitly, of a suggestion or motivation to combine features of these references. For example, Harris et al. and Byford are not motivated or concerned with the actual "installation" or "removal" of equipment; and, Knoblock is not motivated or concerned with the "transportation" of equipment. Why, then, would one skilled in the art seek to combine these references? Applicant respectfully submits that it is only with the Applicant's disclosure in hand that one skilled in the art would seek to arrive at the claimed subject matter.

Furthermore, as the Examiner is aware, "[i]t is impermissible within the framework of section 103 to pick and choose from any one reference only so much of it as will support a given position, to the exclusion of other parts necessary to the full appreciation of what such reference fairly suggests to

one of ordinary skill in the art." (emphasis added) *In re Hedges*, 783 F.2d 1038, 1041, 228 USPQ 685, 687 (Fed. Cir. 1986). With the above in mind, Applicant submits that Examiner has "picked" features from three independent systems - each of these systems specifically designed for a particular purpose; and, these features have been picked to the exclusion of the remaining portion of the independent systems. For example, Harris et al. is a system designed for "matching an item of business property to a recipient" (See Abstract of Harris et al.). Byford is a system designed for "tracing parcels handled by a service provider for a plurality of clients" (See Abstract of Byford). Knoblock is a system designed for "recording, maintaining and viewing placement and configuration of equipment within remote field sites". (See Abstract of Knoblock). Do the features of these three system in an obvious manner lend themselves to being individually "picked" out for recombination? Applicant respectfully submits that they do not absent the Applicants' disclosure. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-13, 15, 18-21, 35-38, 40, 43 and 46-48, when viewed as a whole, are nonobvious.

Claims 14, 17, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, and 49

The Examiner additionally rejected Claims 14, 17, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). In the rejection of Claims 17, 41, 42, and 45, the Examiner applied the three base references of Harris et al. Byford, and Knoblock. For the rejection of Claims 14 and 39, the Examiner applied the three base references above and the additional reference of Ruffolo et al. For the rejection of Claims 44 and 49, the Examiner applied

the three base references above and the additional reference of Detrich et al. Applicant traverses these rejections. In a manner similar to that above, Applicant questions the motivation or suggestion, expressly or implicitly, to combine the features disclosed in Claims 14, 17, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, and 49. And, the Applicant questions the "picking and choosing" of features from amongst the three references for Claims 17, 41, 42, and 45 and the four references for Claims 14, 39, 44, and 49.

Furthermore, for the reasons stated above, Claims 1 and 13 are believed to be allowable. Therefore, Claims 14, 17, 39, 41, 42, 44, 45, and 49, being dependent on either Claim 1 or Claim 13, should also be allowable.

ALLEGED ADMITTED ART

Examiner alleges that Applicant's response of October 28, 2003, admits prior art. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In the Applicant's response of October 28, 2003, Applicant presented claims of varied scope than those previously rejected by the Examiner. This response additionally fully complied with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.111. As such, an admission of prior art could not have been made.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant requests Examiner's initials on the non-initialed referenced of the enclosed PTO-1449 - initially filed on December 11, 2001. Applicant has additionally provided a copy of this reference. To the best of Applicant's knowledge, the enclosed copy of the references was included in the filing of December 11, 2001.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly seeks allowance of Claims 1-15, 17-21 and 35-49. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this Application, please contact Applicant's attorney at 214.979.3093. Applicant, through Applicant's attorney, stands ready to conduct a telephone interview with the Examiner to review this Application if the Examiner believes that such an interview would assist in the advancement of this Application.

To the extent that any further fees are required during the pendency of this Application, including petition fees, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees, including, without limitation, any fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or 37 C.F.R. § 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 23-3189 of Hunton & Williams (Dallas) and reference Attorney Docket No. 82274.472013. In the event that any additional time is needed for this filing, or any additional time in excess of that requested in a petition for an extension of time, please consider this a petition for an extension of time for any needed extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 or any other section or provision of Title 37. Applicant respectfully requests that the Commissioner grant any such petition and authorize the Commissioner to charge the Deposit Account referenced above. Please credit any overpayments to this same Deposit Account.

This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed December 11, 2003.

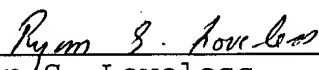
Attorney Docket No. 82274.472013
Customer No. 24347

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
SERIAL NO. 09/580,536

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Please direct all correspondence to the practitioner listed
below at Customer No. 24347.

Respectfully submitted,



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June 11, 2004